

ELECTRON ELECTRONICS

6 MOUNTJOY PARADE, N.C.R. DUBLIN 1, IRELAND.
PO BOX.5 HUNSTANTON, NORFOLK, PE36 5AU, ENGLAND.

New

5 WATT FM TRANSMITTER:

This recent addition to our range is ideal for a small station starting up. The price is £65, which compares favourably with units available elsewhere. As with all our products the unit is fully soak-tested, just connect the aerial and power supply and you're away.

HIGHER POWERED FM TRANSMITTERS.

Electron can supply you with the complete broadcasting system for the FM band. From 7 hour to 7 day operation Electron has it all. In addition to the 5 watt units we still supply our 15 watt exciters, which besides being a self functioning unit can be used to drive amplifiers of 50 and 100 watts. Should the amplifiers ever fail to work you can still make it on the air using the exciter. Protection against polarity reversal is provided, preventing a simple mistake turning into a big problem. If required we can also supply you with both Slim Jim and 3 element aeralials.

SHORT WAVE and MEDIUM WAVE AM TRANSMITTERS.

Crystal Controlled AM transmitters with 200, 100, 50 and 30 watt power outputs can all be supplied with mains supply or ready for 12 volt battery operation, when ordering please remember that only the 30 watt unit can efficiently be used for mobile use because of the high battery consumption. Preset Crystals can also be ordered.

TECHNICAL DETAILS and PRICES.

FM
Exciter 88-108 15 watts output to 50 Ohm antennas. Input 250mv into 100K Ohm. 12 to 13.8 Volts DC operation Current Drain 2.2 amps 75KHz deviation and 50µs pre-emphasis £85

Amplifiers: 50 watt transistorised £120, 100 watt valved £235
Slim Jim Aerial £30 3 Element aerial £30 Delivery within one week of order.

SHORT WAVE/MEDIUM WAVE

200 watt AM - Frequency response 60 Hz to 10 KHz +/- 3 dB, Valved Circuits. Input 250mv into 100 K Ohm for 100% modulation. Output impedance 200 to 400 Ohm or 50 Ohm/75 Ohm for coax r.f feeders, unbalanced, Power Supply included - £230
Delivery in 10 weeks. Please note that this unit is for medium wave only.
100 watt and 50 watts, specification as above, Power Supply included. Output Impedance 50/75 Ohm.

100 watt £160 and 50 watt £135 Delivery 8 to 10 weeks.
30 watt specification as above Power Supply can be provided for battery or mains £120 - Delivery in 2 weeks.

POWER

Mains Power Supply (240 V) for 30 watt AM transmitter £35
Stabilised Power Supply for FM 15 watt transmitter £40
Stabilised Power Supply for FM 15 or 50 watt transmitter £85

CRYSTALS

800 kHz to 999 kHz £23.05
1000 kHz to 1620 kHz £11.45
3.5 MHz to 15 MHz.

wavelength.

October 1986

12

PO Box 5, Hunstanton, Norfolk, PE36 5AU.

mv. Ross Revenge.

August 17th, 1986

The recent news that Caroline has audience figures totalling some nine million listeners has brought with it an increased turnover in the number of advertisements heard on the station. The first of a new batch heard on this date was for Weekly transport, offering next day deliveries, although this commercial remained for a few weeks only. Andy Johnston, who whilst not being heard on air still works behind the scenes lent his voice to a commercial for Stone Motor Policies. A second advert for this company also featured the voice of Canadian Susan Charles currently recovering from a broken leg. She was also heard on two new Record Offers, from Silver Eagle, who brought us Party Rock earlier in the year. The new discs were 'Portrait of a Decade' celebrating ten years of Arista Records, and 'Country Fever'.

Staff changes came too, and at 1300 John Dwyer replaced Tony Peters in the afternoon, whilst at 1700 Dave James was brought forward to Drivetime from his late night slot. Maintenance through the night meant that there was no 24 hour service in the earlier part of the week, but later Dave put in for Overtime by presenting the two slots. Stevie Essex also left the ship at this time. August 23rd.

A new voice to Caroline made his debut at 1300, Richard Jackson, replacing Kevin Turner. Not to be confused with another DJ of the same name Richard began his career on the London stations in the seventies working on City Sounds, Radio Jackie, and more recently in Ireland on Radio Nova and Energy 103. His programming is most professional, although his newsreading is not so good, however this too improved during his time on board. Caroline Martin made a return at 0100 that night (or is it morning?) This time presenting proper programming. She had previously been responsible for spinning records during 'Robot Radio'. John Tyler joined Tom Anderson on Overdrive as the station returned to 24 hour programming once again. August 25th.

More new advertisements were noted, the first for Rainbow International Ltd of Shepherds Bush, London, where they have recently opened a new shop. Rainbow are suppliers

OFFSHORE DIARY

of Disco Equipment. The second commercial was for a one day furniture sale, with special discounts offered to Caroline listeners. August 30th

A further new advertisement was aired for another Brighton Records Fair. Competitions appear to be a favourite pastime on board the Ross these days. This week John Dwyer ran one for fans of the Gerry Anderson series 'Thunderbirds'. In which we had to identify a character from a short extract. John Lewis ran a competition featuring the Group Shalamar. No doubt following the success his Dire Straits competition when John managed to give the answer away in the same breath. On the nighttime programme Jamie King ran a Randy Crawford Competition. September 1st, 1986.

Peter Phillips returned at 1pm, replacing John Dwyer who moved to the later time of 9pm. Jamie King meantime left the ship. On Overdrive Tom Anderson was celebrating. - The programme was three quarters old! In recent weeks the programme had dropped the Caroline prefix to become simply 'Overdrive'. A Maintenance closedown was necessary at 0100, as has become normal for Mondays. The following day Peter Phillips was 'Back in the Old Routine', by commencing his programme at the regular time of 0900, the rest of the schedule looked like this.

0500 John Lewis
0900 Peter Phillips
1300 Richard Jackson
1700 Dave James
2100 John Dwyer
0100 Caroline Martin

Disco
Rainbow
INTERNATIONAL LTD

448 Uxbridge Rd, Shepherds Bush, London W12
TELEPHONE 01-743 9999 (6 lines)

WAVELENGTH

A Busy couple of months. At the end of September we had Buster's Birthday Party. The event organised by Monitor magazine of which Buster was the editor of for many years. The idea of people meeting each other instead of the buying and selling, which normally goes on at such occasions was a simple one, but it worked superbly. I personally was pleased to meet new friends, and to see old friends once more. You can read our full report on Page 8.

We also have been putting together a few new ideas for Wavelength, which all being well will be put into print in future issues. In the meantime if you have any suggestions for new items we can include (or should leave out) we would be only too pleased to hear from you, especially if you would be prepared to write us a feature article yourself.

For those of you wishing to recount the past we have listed some of the back numbers of Wavelength which are currently available. This can be found on Page 11.

Adrian COOKE

Subscriptions

The following rates are correct at time of going to press, but are likely to rise from December. Subscriptions current at that time will be adjusted accordingly.

YEARS SUBSCRIPTION: (6 Issues)

Great Britain and Eire £3 Sterling.
Europe £3.30 or 15 International Reply Coupons.
Rest of the World, by Air Mail £3.90 or 15 IRCs.

SINGLE COPIES

Great Britain; 50p
Europe, Eire and the Rest of the World.
3 IRCs

Make Cheques and Postal Orders payable to 'WAVELENGTH' Foreign Cheques (above £1 sterling) also accepted, but please add an additional £1 Handling Charge, alternatively an International Money Order or Banker's draft will be accepted.

Cash, sent at your own risk, Foreign Notes accepted, Please tape all coins to card.

News duties have been shared. Closedown during the week was at 0200, but at weekends, the station has returned to 24 hour operation. This has allowed continued maintenance work to be carried out with a view to increased power on 558 in the future. On Overdrive at 2130 Tom Anderson followed we believe at 0000 (announced) by John Tyler. On September 4th the station cut out at 0717, for about ten minutes, although on the return John Lewis did not seem to realise anything was wrong. Dave James started his Drivetime programme with 'I want to wake up with you' The Boris Gardner hit, and commented that as he had started with the record on Tuesday, Wednesday and Today he would probably would tomorrow as well. Perhaps a slight flaw in the format as with seven hit plays in 21 hours broadcasting repetition is inevitable. Also this day over on 963 a new address was announced by Radio Monique, it is

Postbus 600, Gerona, Province of Gerona, Spain.

Radio Caroline began promoting two new products from Superior Leisurewear. A T Shirt and Sweatshirt with a picture of the Ross Revenge on the front.

September 6th,

Mark Matthews returned to Overdrive at 2100, replacing Tom Anderson.

September 8th,

Two new advertisements were heard today. Earl Schieb are an American firm specialising in Car respraying, they will respray your car for £139 plus VAT. The other commercial was for an unnamed mail order company dealing in Japanese and American electronic goods. As with previous adverts of this nature special discounts are promised to Caroline listeners.

September 12th

Kevin Turner returned to the Ross at the new time of 2100, replacing John Dwyer, and then proceeded to party through the night with the rest of the crew and a supply of the GEH Bitter.

September 20th,

John Lewis made two late starts to his weekend programmes at 0900. Saturday he was replaced until 1130 by nighttime presenter Caroline Martin, a pleasurable surprise to hear her later in the morning. Caroline was originally announced as continuing to 1300. On the Sunday Richard Jackson sat in until 1200. New advertisements were noted this week for 'The Waverly Paddle Steamer' which according to Kevin Turner's promotion would be visiting the River Thames at the end of the month. Richard Jackson did the voice over for two furniture sales to be held over the weekend. The weekday schedule was rearranged, and looked thus.

0500 John Lewis
0900 Peter Phillips
1300 Kevin Turner
1700 Richard Jackson
2100 Dave James
0100 Caroline Martin (Closedown 0200).

On Overdrive Mark Matthews and John Tyler.

This continues the current policy of giving the established presenters set shows, and letting the new names fill in where required.

September 27th

John Lewis presented the Saturday Breakfast show instead of his normal Weekend morning programme. He then left the ship to head for Southend for Buster's Birthday Party. Jamie King returned on this day at 2100 replacing Dave James. Next Door Mark Matthews had taken over the Dutch Radio Monique studio for an Overdrive Party, apparently because he could fit more people in. He then proceeded to annoy Jamie as much as possible. The megaphone which had been lying about the ship for several days was also brought into use. On September 28th with one presenter short Richard Jackson hosted at Breakfast and from 1700.

September 29th,

With John Lewis on Shore leave Kevin Turner took over the Breakfast show, and introduced a further number of travel reports. Peter Phillips hosted at 0900, Richard Jackson at 1300. The 1700 News was read by Australian Jamie King followed by Mark Matthews who delighted in making comments about the South African 'Kangaroo Courts' Apparently Mark was just lying on the back deck when he was asked if he wanted to do a programme. He was followed at 1900 by Peter Phillips until 2100 when Jamie hosted her programme. Tuesday brought Dennis Jason back to the air, last heard on the Robot Radio shows of last June Dennis returned to Drivetime at 1700 with a new name identification jingle.

October 4th

Tony Peters was back on board replacing Richard Jackson together with John Dwyer replacing Caroline Martin on the late night shift and also playing the viewpoint 963 tapes. In order to start the 'Overdrive' programmes as soon as possible the Viewpoint tapes have been run back to back without any of the musical breaks. This has meant that the timed announcements of when programmes will next be broadcast have been incorrect, although Overdrive has been able to start at the earlier 2215 local time.

An old Offshore name returned to Caroline on October 18th, Dave Owen who said at the start of his programme at 2100 that he was returning to the station after 12 years, Dave who has also worked for Radio Jackie added that he was now the oldest person on board. The next day he hosted the afternoon show, before taking over the weekday breakfast shows

Jamie King moved to Drivetime on Monday and now left the ship leaving the weekday schedule at.

0500 Dave Owen
0900 Peter Phillips
1300 Tony Peters
1700 Jamie King
2100 John Dwyer
0100 Jenny McKenzie.

News Duties were shared, whilst on Overdrive Tom Anderson and Mark Matthews alternated early and late programmes.

THE LEGEND LIVES ON:

On September the 13th Caroline began using a new set of American Voice Over Jingles, based around the theme 'The Legend Lives On' Although they have not been used on the station before, the jingles have certainly been recorded for some time. The East Anglian Productions tape of Radio Caroline and Laser jingles features some of the cuts used one of which states 963 and 576 as the frequencies. We believed that the American Voice used on the promotions belonged to Blake Williams who was with the station during the Summer of 1984, and who is now working on the much talked about Nannell project. However we cannot confirm this. Nonetheless a new sound has been added to the station. Meanwhile the set recorded by Alfasound have now been dropped.

TECHNICAL POINTS.

The 10 kilowatt Portside transmitter has recently been brought into use on 963 kilohertz enabling work to be carried out on the 50kw ampliphase transmitter. Some work will also be carried out ahead of the planned increase in power by Radio Finland who use the same channel. Meantime a Dutch structural engineer has been on board checking the metalwork of the Ship. It was discovered that a certain amount of corrosion has spread to the mast. Work on correcting this has needed to take priority, but has been slowed by the current weather conditions in the Knock Deep. Work will then return to the transmitters. Ian Johnstone of WFLR Tender Trip spoke to Caroline Engineer Peter Chicago about Radio Finland's planned increase in power and how it would affect 963 for Radio Monique and Caroline. He was told that the station was not concerned at the present time, as there was unlikely to be any interference during the day, whilst at night the religious programmes and Overdrive are regarded as minority programming only with not much demand outside the South East of England!

On Friday September 26th the ship was boarded by men from the Customs and Excise, who had heard a rumour that the vessel was all set to sail on the Saturday Night. Instructions were given that the ship's main engines had to be immobilised. These instructions were given to the Customs officials by the Department of Trade and Industry. Two bearings were eventually removed from the driveshaft. A receipt was issued, but only after one was requested by EAF Director, and owner of the Communicator Ray Anderson had requested one.

The DTI for their part are denying all knowledge. In the Ipswich Evening Star on October 7th it was also reported that fuel companies had been approached and requested not to supply fuel, which would be used for the Communicator. A spokeswoman said. "I'm certain this has nothing to do with us. Perhaps Customs have been taking an interest, or even the Transport Department, but not us."

Further developments came on October 22nd, when during rough seas the Communicator broke away from her moorings after dragging her anchor. The Colchester based paper 'Evening Gazette' reported on October 22nd that a tug from Felixstowe, was able to bring the ship minutes before it ran into the Cambridge ferry. The same article reports that it was the Department of Environment who ordered the Ship immobilised. It has been pointed out that had the parts been removed the vessel would have been able to move under her own steam.

SHORT WAVE

Conditions over the past few weeks continue to vary and we all long to return to the days of the late 1970s and early 1980s. In general reception can be summed up as indifferent. September 7th was one of the better days for reception in the UK of local stations. Radio East Coast Commercial for example was logged with a SINPO of 4444 in the Guildford. Ireland still has the majority of regular stations operating, there is of course still some activity from the continent, and from the United Kingdom, where activity is picking up slightly once again, with a few new operators on the scene, of late FMTR, WFRL and Radio Orion who now operate a daily schedule, 7 days a week, which has to be congratulated.

The addresses for this section are listed in brackets and detailed at the end of the section.

With Thanks to Paul Watson, Bradley Allan Podney R. Sixe and Radio Telex.

FREE MEDWAY TOWN RADIO-FMTR (1) continue to broadcast on Sundays and have expanded their transmissions from 0830-1200 hours UTC, and now also into the late afternoon. Relayed programmes have been noted after 1200 hours, notably Falcon Radio (2). The station has also introduced a second outlet on 6340 in addition to their 6320 service. This will shortly be used for the FMTR Radio Relay Service. On September 28th the Operators attended Buster's Birthday Party in Westcliff on Sea. Programmes however continued and a 45 minute loop tape was transmitted. FMTR has discontinued its nightly service due to lack of listener response. The final programme was aired from 2300 - 0100 UTC on Wednesday September 10th, the frequency again was 6320.

RADIO SOVEREIGN (1) were noted on September 7th with DJ Tim Stevens playing extracts from the former London station Radio Horizon. The station operates on 6270 with a power output of only 5 watts although this is likely to increase to between 20 and 30. They are also on the look out for a new mailing address, and they request that any letters sent to them are marked with the initials 'R.S.' only.

RADIO ORION (3) have moved across the band to 6200, where they can be heard 7 days a week. Jingles recorded by John England identify the station as the 'Big O'. And the programmes of John England's Four Freedoms World Service notably the KZEW Rock and Roll Alternative Programme are aired regularly. For example on September 14th, 21st and October 12th. Orion is currently making tests on the 86 metre band using 3463kHz evenings from 1800 to 1900 and weekends 0900-1000, the latter was noted by Podney R. Sixe in Cornwall on October 11th. The station is also heard with regular QSOs on Sunday Afternoons following the normal broadcasts from 1300.

SWINGING RADIO ENGLAND (4) made their first broadcast on August 24th with a special Bank Holiday Marathon broadcast. After the transmissions the operators were forced to make a quick retreat after spotting a satellite car sitting on the edge of the site, apparently they were looking at a car parked further down the road.

RADIO EAST COAST COMMERCIAL(5) continue to broadcast every first Sunday of the month on 6230. On September 7th they were heard with a tremendous signal in the South East. A day of very favourable conditions for British stations.

SPECTRUM WORLD BROADCASTING have been quiet of late due to a change of operators. Gerry Sinclair has gone back to Canada and the transmitter, studio and other facilities have been taken over by Jay Burkette. He plans to keep

WONDERFUL FREE RADIO LONDON

WFRL 6.300KHz 48m
P.O. BOX 5. HUNSTANTON. NORFOLK. PE36 5AU

To **ADRIAN COOKE.**

Date **KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK**

Freq **AND THANKS FOR THE**
REPORTS BY TELEPHONE

Sinpo

QSL

73S ANDY WALKER

the popular format of news and information blended with a selection of the best music around. SWBC say that they plan to introduce special transmissions on the FM bands to be broadcast at times of long distance reception. The mailing address (6) remains the same while SWBC have had new QSLs printed.

WONDERFUL FREE RADIO LONDON-WFRL (5) continue with their second Sunday schedule. However problems with the aerial system on September 14th meant that the broadcast was not heard, and this was therefore repeated the following week. The popular Tender Trip programme broadcast by the station has now been extended to a complete hour and can be heard from 1100 onwards. The long awaited QSL cards are now available from the station for correct reception reports, as well as an information sheet.

RADIO STELLA INTERNATIONAL (7) have made a return to the air two recent broadcasts using facilities provided by Weekend Music Radio. Firstly on September 21st on 6275 noted at 1008, and then the following week at 0959. The first broadcast was transmitted from Scotland, and like some of the WMR broadcasts included on air telephone calls from the listeners. The second came from Ireland, whilst being visited by Jack Russell. WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO-WMR(8) were themselves heard on October 5th on 6290, and featuring DJ Mike Ross, programming continued through until 1155, then later in the afternoon with some QSOs. The station is sometimes heard in QSO only when no programmes are broadcast.

RADIO LYNDIA (7) from Scotland were noted on October 12th with their first broadcast for several months.

IRELAND.

RIVERSIDE RADIO (9) continue to broadcast on a number of frequencies in the 48 metre band. For Example 6210 on August 31st and October 4th, 6217 on September 14th and 6525 on October 12th. The stations uses a power of just 5 watts, but can still be heard with a reasonable signal in the UK. Plans are afoot for the station to purchase the former ABC Radio Shortwave transmitter, which it has operated in the past. Meantime Riverside can also be heard amongst the QSO stations in the 48 metre band.

The regular weekly stations RAINBOW (10), SKYWAVE (2), WESTSIDE (12), and IRELAND (13) all continue to broadcast. In addition to their own programmes Skywave have also been carrying relays for other stations, the most prominent of which is GOOD NEWS RADIO (2) which can be heard prior to their own programmes on Sunday Mornings, and Monday to Friday 0800-0830 and 1500-1530 Times given are GMT, but this may alter at the end of BST. Good News Radio operates a religious output. On September 21st Skywave relayed the former Delmare relay station Satellite Broadcasting Company (14), and the following week RADIO SOUNDS INTERNATIONAL (14). Skywave's other

operation IRRS continues on 6830, which is used mainly for the programmes of FRS-HOLLAND (15), and also for FALCON RADIO.

Finally in this section RADIO DUBLIN can be heard daily on 6910 (16). The station carries the programmes of World Music Radio on Sundays from 0700 (17).

THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT.

RADIO DELMARE (18) continue to broadcast most weeks with their mix of Relays and own programming on 6205. Relays in August and September have included MARABU, LIBERTY SOUND, SCORPIO, CLOG, FOUR FREEDOMS WORLD SERVICE and FRS HOLLAND. Delmare can be heard on both Saturday and Sunday well into the afternoon. FRS HOLLAND(15) celebrated their 6th birthday on August 17th, having begun in 1980, via their own transmitters. However due to poor reception conditions on that day few people heard the broadcast and a repeat was arranged. Difficulties were also experienced with the September 3rd Sunday broadcast when the tapes did not reach Delmare in time.

PFBS(15) have been heard occasionally on 6292.

RADIO DISCOLINE(19) were heard on September 20th on 6200 via Radio Orion, and also the following day on the same frequency. The station broadcasts in German.

A Dutch station was logged on 6310 October 5th, this was later identified as Radio Neptune.(20).

ADDRESSES:

The Correct address of Radio Nova(Belguim) is Po Box 5, B-2638 Reete, Belguim.

Listing.

1. Po Box SH9, Sheerness, Kent, England. ME12 1AC.
2. Po Box 1686, Dublin 1, Ireland.
3. 82b Edgewood Road, Rednal, Birmingham, England, B45 8SG.
4. 28 Stillness Road, London SE23, England.
5. Po Box 5, Hunstanton, Norfolk, England. PE36 5AU.
6. BM Broadcasting, London WC1N 3XX, England.
7. 32 Victoria Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England. SP1 3NG.
8. 42 Arran Close, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge, England.
9. Po Box 39, Waterford, Ireland.
10. 151 Moneymore, Drogheda, County Louth, Ireland.
12. 310 Collins Avenue West, Dublin, Ireland.
13. 31 Mountjoy Square, Dublin 1, Ireland.

14. Postfach 220342, D-5600, Wupertal 22, West Germany.
15. Postbus 41, 7700 AA Dedemsvaart, The Netherlands.
16. 58 Inchicore Road, Kilmainham, Dublin 8, Ireland.
17. Postbus 4078, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
18. Postbus 36, B-2050, Antwerp, Belgium
19. Postfach 1130 D-4154, Tonisvorst 1, West Germany.
20. Postbus 185, Heerde, The Netherlands.

MEDIUM + FM

LONDON AND THE SOUTH EAST:

LWR: 92.5 FM had there best time for transmitting in a long time, four weeks on the air, 24 Hours a day, that came to an end on Sunday 12th October, when they were put off the air by a raid.

TKO 90.9 FM have also had a good time of broadcasting, they went from Night Time transmissions, back to 24 hours a day, that only lasted 1 1/2 weeks. They were also raided on the same day as LWR.

KISS FM 94 FM: Still going strong as London's Weekend Soul music station, with a good strong signal over the capital in Stereo, to my mind the best soul station on the air. they were also raided on October 12th.

The other stations STARPOINT RADIO and TWILIGHT RADIO seem to come on the air every now and again, when they get another transmitter built.

ALICE'S RESTAURANT 93 FM seem to have received a lot of trouble from raids over the last month and are likely to be off the air until after Christmas.

Many of London's smaller stations come and go, off and on, many using very low power, its hard to keep up with them.

The rumours that SOLAR and HORIZON are to come back on the air, are true, but at the time of writing all I'm getting out of the radio is a Hisssss.

Just checked, TKO and STARPOINT are on the air as I write, nice audio from Starpoint, but TKO are over modulating a bit.

Andy Walker
October 15th, 1986.

WONE are broadcasting to London 24 hours a day over the weekend on 94.5, however there is some drifting from the transmitter

SOLENT.

CHANNEL RADIO 192 is a new station that can be heard most Sundays broadcasting to the Solent area on 192 metres/1560 kHz approximately. The station claim to be Off-shore from somewhere off the Isle of Wight and sounds very professional with its top 40 format. It would appear that no Mailing address or telephone number is given out. Regarding the station claiming to be Off-shore it is more than likely coming from the Isle of Wight itself, even the signal strength right down in Southampton is good Other "Pirate" Radio stations that have broadcast from the Isle of Wight in the past were Radio Cathy, Free Island Radio, Radio Solent City and Radio Vectis City to name but a few.

David Williams.

MERSEYSIDE AND THE NORTH WEST.

Despite thoughts to the contrary the well known Liverpool station Radio Merseywaves has returned to the air. A loop tape was heard on 1242kHz from about 8pm on September 25th, a regular schedule followed later and the station once more operates over the weekend from Saturday to Monday.

RADIO JULIE 104.8MHz Fm are supposedly operating a midweek schedule on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, however they have also been noted on Fridays and on October 19th (Sunday) when they announced they had come on air as Radio Veronica were using their frequency (Veronica use the nearby channel of 104.7) The effect of these transmissions by Julie is to restrict the reception of Veronica in the Wirral area.

RADIO VERONICA have now dropped their Saturday transmissions, the last being broadcast on September 27th. The station does continue however on Sunday afternoons from 3pm and Friday evenings from 6pm, although start time is sometimes an hour later.

Tests have been noted from CHESTER COMMUNITY RADIO on 103.5 in preparation for transmissions over the Christmas Holiday period, noted on October 9th with a blank carrier, then with programming during the early part of Sunday evening.

STORETON COMMUNITY RADIO appeared on 1026kHz in early september, firstly with a Blank Carrier only, but later coming alive with a relay of the local ILR station Radio City. This continued from time to time, also with relays of BBC Radio Merseyside until finally making it back on the air under the Storeton call sign on September 20th and announced a Saturday and Sunday Only schedule, however by early October the station had disappeared once more.

ANFIELD COMMUNITY RADIO are still on the air at weekends using 1431kHz.

Addresses:

Radio Merseywaves, 9 Meadfoot Road, Moreton, Wirral, Merseyside L46 7UW.
Radio Julie, 2 Fairbeach Court, Ford Estate Birkenhead, Merseyside L43 7SZ.
Radio Veronica, 81 Lark Lane, Liverpool L17 8UP.
Chester Community Radio; Mail to be addressed to CCRA, 66 Aldford Road, Upton, Chester.
Storeton Community Radio, 91 New Hey Road, Woodchurch, Birkenhead, Merseyside, L49 7NE.
Anfield Community Radio, 111 Pinehurst Avenue, Anfield, Liverpool L4 7UG.

With Thanks to Neil Frazer, Allen Dean and Tim Jackson.

SHROPSHIRE.

SUNSHINE RADIO made a return to the air on Sunday August 24th. The community orientated format has been replaced with the emphasis now being on the music. However former Radio Caroline DJ Roger Matthews remains with the station. The frequency is 103.5, and the current Sunday Only broadcasts are to test public opinion for a return to 7 day a week broadcasting. Graham Symonds claims to have no connection with the new station. The equipment comprises of a remote control transmitter with 75 watts output, using a slim Jim aerial giving out 150 watts E.R.P. Transmission times are currently 0700 -2400

Letter

Alan Dean from Burnley writes;
"Just recently returned from a great holiday in Italy, did manage a little radio listening while there. FM Band full of many many stations, many of which do not bother to I.D. very often. However one that I.D'd regularly was Radio San Marino on 92mHz. The American Forces station SEB Radio was well heard on 106. On Medium Wave London's Capital Radio was often audible after 2200 on 1548."



BUSTER'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

Sunday 28th September was a special day. At the Queen's Hotel Westcliff Offshore Radio Enthusiasts and friends of the late Roland Pearson had gathered for Buster's Birthday Party. Known to many as simply 'Buster', Roland Pearson had been the man behind the detailed Offshore Radio Magazine 'Monitor' for many years, and following his death last December 23rd it was decided to hold an annual get together, on his Birthday, September 29th, being a Monday the previous weekend was a more obvious choice.

In the large hall of the Hotel there were many display stands, few goods were on sale, which made a pleasant change, after all Buster wanted a meeting, not a January sale and it was decided that merchandise should not be the central point. There were displays from Anoraks UK, The RNLI, G. John Ford who displayed framed etchings of the Ross Revenge by the Sudbury based Artist Tony Searle many of the etchings already displayed a 'sold' sticker in the corner, Theo Dencker, The excellent Free Radio Photographer and Contributor to Monitor. Theo had brought with him some Photographs from the recent raising of the former Radio London ship, the Galaxy. They showed that despite the time spent beneath

the waters of West Germany the letters r.l. could still be seen on the funnel. The Caroline Movement were also in attendance and the Production company EAP, who were responsible for the purchasing of the m.v. Communicator. It was from Paint Chippings of the former Laser ship that the company was able to raise amongst the guests £62.07 this was donated to the RNLI and RAIBC, the latter being the Radio Amateur Invalid and Blind club to which Buster belonged. Monitor of course had their own display with Photographs of Buster, together with Caroline's founder and inspiration Ronan O'Rahilly.

On stage during the evening were names well known to Offshore Radio, John Lewis, Andy Johnston, Micheal Barrington, John Dwyer, Ian Akers, Stevie Essex, David Gilbey (Dave McKay) They talked about Caroline and their involvement with Offshore Broadcasting. All expressed a hope that British Radio would one day be expanded to cater for every possible need. Also in attendance were Joan, Roy and Micheal Bates from Sealand. The on stage sound equipment was provided by Dave Caine's Mi-Amigo Roadshow.

In all a day well spent and we look forward to next year and another meeting, Thank Buster for starting it all and the Monitor team for making it all happen.

DAVID GILBEY Talks to WAVELENGTH

As Dave McKay he brought us sixties Offshore Broadcasting on Radio City and Swinging Radio England. As David Gilbey he produced the Rusty Ships story for ILR and is about to join BBC Radio Essex. Here David talks to Adrian Cooke, Tim Stevens and Tony King.

Adrian: Dave your shortly to join BBC Radio Essex, or its BBC Essex isn't it?

Dave: It's BBC Essex, there's been a certain amount of controversy of the use of the word Essex in the title because there is as you well know in this part of the country we have Essex Radio. The BBC have decided to be just that little different for a change and it has the title BBC Essex. I think those who will listen will know the difference. Adrian: The BBC stations, they're usually more speech, as a rule.

Dave: They are generally speaking more community orientated I would agree with that, I think that the problem with many of the independent local radio stations is that they've fallen into a little bit of a rut, it's music, music and adverts, nothing but.

Adrian: How is BBC Essex shaping together? Dave: Very nicely we've got the main studio centre in Chelmsford and we've got outlying studios in Colchester, Harlow and Southend, it will truly be countywide.

Adrian: If not a bit more!

Dave: I'm going to be very sort of conservative about this at the moment, obviously it's aimed for the county about the county but I must admit those transmitters do seem to be reaching far and wide.

Adrian: The editorial content does not illustrate the capacity of the transmitter units!

Tim: No Offence Dave but they shouldn't really reach farther, I'm saying this because I'm an Anorak but I've picked them up in Bedfordshire, they've been picked up in Birmingham, Shropshire, you know.

Dave: I did a count a few weeks ago of the number of local radio stations which can be heard in Essex, in my particular corner of Essex which is Southend I can pick up clearly, and enjoy most of twenty two different local radio stations.

Tim: You must have an eight element aerial on your roof then.

Dave: I don't, I have a piece of wire, which comes out the back of an FM tuner and drapes over the lampshade of a standard lamp. . . You see various Governments and Offices can draw lines and boundaries and they can say you will run a radio station which will cover so many square miles but the one thing the radio waves do not understand are county boundaries. The radio waves go on and on and on and they can be received for as long as people have the equipment picking them up. There is some control exercised as to how big a transmitter should be to give adequate coverage, but obviously there's going to be spillage, there must be. If there hadn't have been spillage, considerable spillage from other radio stations poor old Essex as a county would have been without radio for a long long time.

Tim: You're working for BBC Essex, but in your own heart having worked on Radio 355 in the sixties you are still a true Anorak at heart aren't you?

Dave: An Anorak, you must remember that when I started broadcasting 'Anoraks' hadn't been invented, I come to you this afternoon as Methuselah.

Tim: I shouldn't use the term 'Anorak' should I

Adrian: Radio Enthusiast!

Dave: I got into broadcasting by accident because before I was in Radio I was in the airline industry and a chance remark over a glass of beer in a pub in Surrey that got me an original tryout on Radio City, and I started in City in 1965.

Tim: Everybody meets everybody in Surrey to do with Radio isn't it strange.

Adrian: I would say that Surrey and Essex, with possibly Kent are the mainstays of Radio.

Dave: I think it could well be the fact that Surrey has more than its fair share of fine pubs. Having started with City in 1965 I moved across to Swinging Radio England, Britain Radio which latterly became 227 and 355.

Tim: Was it Dolphin as well?

Dave: Dolphin inbetween England and 227, yes & Obviously my roots are steeped in Commercial Radio, my training was in commercial Radio, but over the last 22 odd years I've spent a lot of time with the BBC. I spent 11 years down in Brighton with BBC Radio Brighton before it became BBC Radio Sussex.

Tim: You were there as a DJ?

Dave: DJ, Producer, Dogbody, sometimes even promoted to General Dogbody.

Tim: You were Dave Gilbey on BBC Radio Brighton, Sussex.

Dave: I started using my real name when I came back to dry land in '67. I did a little work, for what was then the Light Programme, before it became Radio One, stroke Two and then I reverted from Mackay to my name of Gilbey, and It's been Gilbey ever since.

Tim: What future do you see for Caroline. Do you think there will always be a need for it? Dave: There will be a need for Caroline as long as there is a need for an improvement and a progression in the radio services that are provided for the United Kingdom the reason for this is that Caroline still provides a form of radio which a lot of people enjoy listening to I do my wife still listens to Caroline, and it's not out of loyalty because of Caroline's levity. It does provide a music form that's fairly progressive, has been for over twenty years, and gives me personal listening pleasure and I think that applies to a lot of people, remember we broadcasters, we don't lock ourselves up in Ivory towers. We're not just there locked away to give the public what we think, we're consumers too. I stick my feet up, knock my shoes off and watch Dallas on a Wednesday evening, I listen to World service when I want to listen to news, or Radio Four. I tune across the dial in exactly the same manner as you do.

Adrian: Are you critical at all of broadcasting when you hear something which you feel could be better?

Dave: I am exceptionally critical and sometimes saddened. I was sad when Laser closed down, I was a great Laser fan, probably because of my roots in American based commercial radio.

Tim: I think that people enjoyed Laser because it was new to this country and they had never heard anything like it before.

Dave: As a two legged wrinkle from the Pirates of the sixties I'm going to jump on you two like a ton of bricks. Those of you who have listened to tapes, or can go back and remember swinging Radio England. Laser was merely a 1980s version of Swinging Radio England.

Tim: I've never heard any tapes of Swinging Radio England, except for a few airchecks. Adrian: I think that Laser brought Free Radio into the eighties, Caroline to my musical tastes was at its best just after Laser started. Sort of 'we've got competition out here, lets try a bit more.

Dave: Alright the bricks are down on the table this is obviously going to be a clash of generation gaps. I personally believe that the finest moments of Offshore Radio were Swinging Radio England, was the Heyday of Kenry and Cash on Big L, that included programmes like early John Peel, Dave Dennis' lunchtime programme, superb radio in anybodys book, then Caroline of course with Bill Hearn, Cash Casino, This was a brilliant starstudied period of Offshore commercial radio, only Occasionally repeated since. Laser did it with crew one, and Laser maintained it with part of Crew Two, I suppose really we saw the end of fast music radio with just a touch of lunacy with the going of Charlie Wolf.

Tony: I have a slight criticism here. A friend of mine lives in Leicester, he's American and he's a professional broadcaster and has been working at radio Leicester for the past year or more. He is really good, and I'm not just saying that because he's a friend, but as a broadcaster's opinion, he's very good. At Radio Leicester he was doing spots for Good Morning Leicester and being paid £8 a spot, and students off the street who knew damn all were getting £15 a spot. I want to know why BBC local Radio, or the BBC in general seems to be anti American Radio presenters. There's no American presenters on the BBC or IBA in the daytime when the majority of people are listening and I would like to hear your thoughts on that.

Dave: Quite a number of thoughts. The BBC tend to swing through styles and fashions like any organisation that has a long life I can remember before the Pirates even as I used to listen to the Radio as a very small person indeed, when Americans Canadians, South Africans, Australians were very popular broadcasters. I'm going to name names. Sandy McPherson, he was a Canadian, remember. Many of the commentators and some of the news readers were Canadian or of American Origin. We had our South Africans, and our Australians and our New Zealanders. I would agree with you that there aren't so many colourful commonwealth voices that there used to be. We still have people like Paul Gambaccini who you hear very regularly on Radio One, Radio Two and even occasionally Radio Three, as well as television. I see no harm in this, there has often been a shortage of good professional broadcasters, at one time there was a many many years ago an unpublished dictat at the BBC that you could only work for the BBC or get into the BBC if you had broadcasting experience. Well if you're a UK citizen in those days the only way you could get broadcasting experience was to work for the BBC. So you had a perfectly circular catch 22 situation. The pirates broke that, they gave many people including myself the chance to train up as hopefully, half reasonable broadcasters. Hospital Radio has done a wonderful job, the Community Radio Pirates, I think that's probably the best and safest way to describe them they have done a good job at encouraging yet another generation of people into broadcasting I am going to sweep back to a question which was posed to me a few moments ago is there still a need for Caroline, I said there will be a need for Caroline and other pirates until the British broadcasting system got it right

It's still got a long way to go we've recently experienced the hiccup of having our hopes for community broadcasting dashed. There are many reasons for that and I am certainly not going to get political during this inter-

view, but some of those reasons were because people who wanted to set up community radio stations were frankly too politically biased for either public good, for public satisfaction or indeed the good or satisfaction of the prevailing Government.

Tony: I often get the feeling that the BBC don't like competition, because they don't have to work for their competition, because they are funded by the licence fee, so therefore some people in the BBC tend to have a very laissez-faire attitude, 'we're all right' Dave: I wish I could agree, I can't for obvious reasons and not just because I work for the BBC. Remember I am returning to the BBC, as indeed six years ago I returned to Commercial broadcasting, now whether you're BBC, whether you're ILR whether you're pirate you have the same seam, you have audience ratings to work on, audiences to consider, audiences to claim its a very competitive business, whether its local whether its national, whether its television.

Tony: How much music is there going to be on BBC Essex?

Dave: A lot, all of the hits all of the time.

Adrian: I think I've heard this before.

Dave: Yes, I wonder.

Adrian: You're never more than a minute away from a 'phone-in, Swap Shop. . .

Dave: I can see I am surrounded by cynics at this end.

Tony: People down this part of England are lucky with BBC local radio as BBC Essex is a new station. Radio Leicester was the first BBC local radio station, even now it sounds to my mind terrible.

Dave: Some of the newer local radio stations, like Bedford, Shropshire have maintained a very interesting and very competitive level. Adrian: Radio Cambridgeshire is a very interesting one, Hal Bethel started that off, as I believe station manager and he aimed for primarily a news format after about a year he left and local broadcaster Ian Masters took over the station, and changed the look completely, and as a result those figures went up slightly.

Dave: I am going to leave you with a tremendous thought when it comes to BBC local radio. It's a popular misconception that because BBC local radio stations only have an allocation of two and a half hours of needletime per day that they only play two and a half hours of music per day. I'll leave you to work out, what fills in the rest.

BBC ESSEX opens on November 5th, 1986 and broadcasts on 765, 729 and 1530kHz also 103.5 & 95.3 FM. Next edition we talk to Radio Caroline's Steve Essex.

...and finally

STEREO HITS: An Apology.

In our June edition we printed a short article on the plans for Stereo Hits. We do however appear to have got some of our facts wrong, in particular the piece on Paul Rusling, he writes.

"... I have in fact invested well over £14,000 personally into the Nannet station, & have certainly not "disappeared"

"For the record I am not living in New York, indeed I've only been there twice this year and that to meet with Lasers former Presidents. My work is in Florida and Pennsylvania, and is in radio. I was the instigator of the STEREO HITS project, but have several criteria which any offshore station must meet. These include proper payment of staff, bills met, operation conducted my way - or at least the way advertisers stipulate, is apparently legal. Many aspects of STEREO HITS were wrong and the project was broke with discussions under way to sell out to an American. I with a wife & Daughter to look after, merely went off to earn a living in radio. Surely I can't be expected to issue a press release every week? With the DTI very heavily on my back I have to keep most actions close to my chest. The only publicity I created was that my book was published. . . That in 1984. The Pub catching fire; the DTI/ILR plot to discredit myself and Laser (by the set up meeting with Eddie Blackwell being bugged without my knowledge & talks of a) plot were not publicity seeking actions by me. Similarly issuing a writ against the owner of the Communicator. The station was flat, stoney, broke & could not have made it back on air."

We thank Paul for giving his side of the story, and to the addition information he added on his involvement with Stereo Hits. Looking at our subscription file it is very good to see well known Offshore Names taking more than a passing interest in such a small publication.

You all no doubt realise that we do check our information as far as possible. It does come from reliable sources.

Former Radio Caroline Cook and DJ Fergie McNeil was married to his Dutch Girlfriend Mariella on September 30th. At the end of his morning programme on that date Peter Phillips wished Fergie the best for the future and apologised for not being able to attend the Wedding himself.

Remember the Austrian record featured on Caroline a few months ago - Ba Ba Bank Robbery with its Dog Chorus is by Eav and has now been released in Britain on Columbia Records the number is DB9139

One record missing recently from the 558 playlist has been Nick Berry's Number One smash Every Loser Wins from the BBC series Eastenders. The record is BBC records' biggest seller to date. The question is have Caroline been sent a copy or have they refused to play it out of principal.

Former operator of London's K-JAZZ has now be given his own Tuesday evening show on BBC Radio London. Giles Peterson can be heard at 10pm.

Tomorrows World on BBC Television October 23rd featured a new Car Radio Cassette capable of preselecting a number of tracks. Straight from the Birmingham Motor Show, the car radio was switched on, and the frequency of 92.5 lighted up - that of LWR!

We have been asked to mention the FREE RADIO LISTENER'S CLUB, details of which can be obtained from Po Box 99, Northampton.

A limited number of back issues and subsequent reprints are currently available, they are;

Wavelength 1, December 1984; Pop Go the Pirates.
Wavelength 2, February 1985; Radio Monique Free Radio Survey 1984
Wavelength 3, April 1985; Goodbye Sunshine . . . Farewell Jackie, Community Radio, Caroline 21st Celebration
Wavelength 4, June 1985; DIY Radio on Presentation and Production, Waveguide Short Wave listing.
Wavelength 5, August 1985; Siege at Sea, Community Radio; The Proposals, Border Radio, Waveguide Medium Wave and FM listing
Wavelength 6, October 1985 (last few copies left) Eurosiege '85.
Wavelength 7, December 1985 (last few copies left) "One Down and One to Go", Behind the Scenes at South East Sounds.
Wavelength 10, June 1986 (last few copies left) The fate of the Communicator, Veronica Liverpool, The first Birthday, P.A. Design, Bruce Purdy Interview.
Wavelength 11, August 1986, Sealand Radio.

The cost of each issue is 50p in Great Britain, 3 International Reply Coupons elsewhere. Stocks of some issues are also held by Anoraks UK, Po Box 539, Blackpool.

Many thanks to all those who helped with this edition of Wavelength.

The deadline for the next edition Wavelength 13 (lucky for some) is November 25th.